

# **Marion School District Seven**

## **Technology Plan**

**2005-2010**

Update 06/02/2009

### **Bridging the Digital Divide**



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## District Profile

- ❑ Marion School District 7 where technology is a tool not a reward and educational excellence is set at the highest standard. Located 40 miles outside of Myrtle Beach, our district encompasses five facilities: one early childhood center, one elementary school, one middle/high school, district office and a family life center. We serve over 700 students in grades PK – 12. Marion County has suffered tremendous loss of jobs over the last decade and approximately 90% of our district students are eligible for free and reduced lunches. Our district has 13 ESOL students who are being served. Creek Bridge High School averages 2% students who drop out of high school and has a 68% graduation rate. Due to the high poverty level of our students our district is funded by E-rate at 90%.

## Executive Summary

- ❑ Marion School District Seven has, in the past, focused our technology plan on the acquisition and distribution of technology. Thanks to creative funding and grants the district has been able to provide new technology, training and support for all schools, teachers and students. The focus of the 2005-2010 technology plan is how that technology is used to enhance instruction. The district has adopted the SDE technology plan as the model for integration of technology into the curriculum. The district has always had a strong professional development plan. That plan is updated to include the instruction of incorporating technology into the curriculum. The district will continue to work with other agencies and pursue funding sources in order to provide the best resources for our district.

## District Needs Assessment

- ❑ As the district continues to grow, and the utilization of technology increases Marion School District 7 will require more bandwidth, both for internet utilization as well as for our internal WAN. This increase will allow us many new options that will streamline productivity, reduce the total cost of ownership on network related equipment and also create a more efficient technical staff. By increasing bandwidth between schools, we can begin to move to a more centralized Voice over IP solution that will reduce the cost of our phone bills, while giving us the integration between sites to become more efficient. The increase would also allow us to begin a server consolidation project that would reduce the physical number of servers while still providing top tier network infrastructure.

## District Mission, Vision and Goal Statements

- ❑ Our Mission
  - The mission of Marion School District Seven is to ensure that all students are knowledgeable, productive, and contributing citizens by uniting for our children and providing comprehensive educational services in a safe and supportive environment.
- ❑ Technology Vision Statement
  - The vision of Marion School District 7 is to provide an environment that actively pursues and encourages the use of new technologies by all district staff, teachers, students and parents. Through professional development and community outreach programs, our educators, students and members of the community will become technologically literate and proficient users of today's technologies.
- ❑ District Technology Goal
  - Marion School District 7 is committed to the improvement and integration of technology into everyday instruction and everyday operations for our teachers and staff. Providing “just in time” technology and “just in time” training will allow our district to seamlessly integrate technology into our district. This integration of technology into our curriculum will greatly enhance student achievement and will streamline our operations and make our staff more efficient.

## Five Technology Dimensions

Marion School District Seven's Technology Plan focuses on five areas essential to technology integration: **The Learning Environment, Professional Capacity, Instructional Capacity, Community Connections, and Support Capacity.**

**The Learning Environment and Instructional Capacity,** focus on this area will include the use of technology as a tool for achieving state curriculum standards through enhanced problem-solving and critical-thinking skills. These skills are essential to our student's success in the ever changing and increasingly technological society.

Progress:

- Teachers have been instructed in the use of SLATE
- The district is hosting safe and secure student e-mail
- Technology Coach was included in the development of the school improvement plans
- Technology Coach's contract was renewed
- The district has continued to improve the communications to home via District, School and Teacher websites.
- The district continues to search for and apply for grants
- The district is in the progress of developing a plan for the evaluation of students technology proficiency
- The district continues to build community relationships
- The district is pursuing online, distance learning and other methods to help students and teachers take course as needed for staff development and credit recovery
- Teachers receive individual technology assistance and needed
- The district has ordered 15 smart boards for classrooms
- Teachers were trained in SC streamline during the instructional/Technology fair and are using them in lessons.

**Professional Capacity,** focus on this area will include the development of a technology professional development plan which includes all teachers, administrators, and staff in the District with the aim of increasing their proficiency and maximizing their effectiveness.

Progress:

- The district has an active technology team responsible for the leadership of technology in the district
- The district technology plan was developed, submitted and approved
- The district is continuing a pilot program to implement teacher portfolios
- All teacher technology proficiency forms are updated annually
- The District hosted an Instructional/Technology fair to acquaint staff with available technology for schools

**Community Connections,** focus on this area will include the collaboration of school and community stakeholders providing opportunities for participation in the planning and implementation of our district technology plan. The development of a community outreach program will benefit everyone in our area.

Progress:

- The district has outfitted a 12 station training center to be used for staff development and community computer classes.
- The district has helped to outfit a homework center with 10 computer stations.
- Teachers who did not have a computer at home were given the opportunity to sign up for a refurbished one

- The district is beginning to place refurbished computers into the homes of students
- The district has implemented an automated phone message system for communicating important information to parents and attendance.
- 30 students received refurbished computers and parents participated in training\*\*
- We have received a grant that gives all of our 4k-fifth, sixth, eighth, tenth and eleventh graders a laptop for 2008-2009. This will allow students to bring technology home and work on school tasks

\*\* All refurbished computers in the training center, homework center and those placed in homes are donations from a variety of business partners.

**Support Capacity,** focus on this area will include the physical facilities and support for the technology in our district. All resources will be reevaluated for total cost of ownership and streamlined based on those evaluations. Each functional job will have a standard list of technology equipment, software and training that will be provided.

Progress:

- The district has an active technology team responsible for the leadership of technology in the district
- The district uses a database to assist with our technology inventory
- The district has a preliminary plan for the disposal and upgrade of equipment. This plan is still in the process of being developed.
- Technology Components are being evaluated and optimized for max efficiency
- Voice over IP has been implemented at Brittons Neck Elementary and we phased out the old phone system.
- Update Creek Bridge High school's network infrastructure and servers
- Technology department is installing new server with SLES and OES. Active Directory environment was too expensive.
- Cell phones with data plans to keep administrators informed of important events.
- New addition to Britton's Neck Elementary will free up some space for specialty teachers.
- New servers and switches will be put in place at schools to update communications with servers.

The district continues to research and develop the best methods for procuring and integrating technology into the schools. We are continually looking for new funding sources and ways to more efficiently use the funds we already have. Any questions concerning the technology update can be directed to Daniel Varela 843-362-3048 or [dvarela@marion7.k12.sc.us](mailto:dvarela@marion7.k12.sc.us)